S-94,660

Application No. 09/691,231 Amdt. dated Aug. 7, 2003 Reply to Office action of Jul. 9, 2003

## Remarks/Arguments

In the Office Action dated July 9, 2003, the Examiner rejected Claims 1 – 11. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Deissler (U.S. Patent No. 4,187,635). Claims 2, 5, 6, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deissler. In response to the Examiner's objections Claims 1 – 11 have been canceled.

In the Office Action dated July 9, 2003, the Examiner noted Claim 12 – 18 were allowed. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner allow Claims 12 – 18, as indicated on the attached complete listing of claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim C. Durkis

Reg. No. 44,097

U. S. Department of Energy/NNSA

(505) 845-6185

Dated: August 7, 2003